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General and complete disarmament

Reducing nuclear danger; follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons; and nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 68/40, 68/42 and 68/47.

2. In paragraph 3 of resolution 68/42, the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken with respect to the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its sixty-ninth session.

3. In paragraph 5 of resolution 68/40, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war, and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider convening an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

4. In paragraph 23 of resolution 68/47, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Observations

5. Since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/68/137), Governments and civil society have carried forward with growing determination their efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, including through major international initiatives intended to promote the humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament and to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

6. From 13 to 14 February 2014, the Government of Mexico hosted the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Nayarit. A total of 146 States, various United Nations entities, the International Committee of the Red Cross and numerous non-governmental organizations attended the conference to discuss the global and long-term consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. The Nayarit conference followed up on the first conference, held in Oslo in March 2013, which had focused on the immediate impact of the use of nuclear weapons. The Nayarit conference concluded that beyond the immediate death and destruction caused by a detonation, socioeconomic development would be hampered, the environment would be damaged and suffering would be widespread, especially for the poor and most vulnerable. During the course of the conference, the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria announced that he would host a follow-up international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which is to take place in Vienna in December 2014.

7. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/39, on 26 September 2013 in New York the General Assembly hosted its first-ever high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament. A total of 74 heads of State and Government, foreign ministers and other high-level officials participated in the event. The President of the General

Assembly prepared a summary document as the outcome of the high-level meeting (A/68/563). Participants considered the high level of attendance in the event to be a clear manifestation of support for nuclear disarmament. States used the opportunity to discuss general principles related to nuclear disarmament and the relationship between non-proliferation and disarmament. They also took stock of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral disarmament commitments and disarmament proposals and discussed various approaches to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", in which it, inter alia, declared 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and decided to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review progress made in this regard.

8. The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2014, with the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations serving as Chair. The Committee successfully completed the necessary procedural preparations for the 2015 Review Conference, including the adoption of its agenda. As the Committee was unable to reach agreement on substantive recommendations to the Review Conference, the Chair circulated a working paper on his own authority reflecting his understanding of the matters of substance raised by States parties, without prejudice to the work of the Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.46). On nuclear disarmament, the working paper reflected the need for the full and urgent implementation of article VI of the Treaty and the outcomes of previous Review Conferences. Towards that end, it included recommendations that the 2015 Review Conference take stock of the national reports and working papers submitted by the nuclear-weapon States and consider the next steps for the full implementation of article VI, as well as the steps and actions agreed at previous Review Conferences; reaffirm the importance of various multilateral measures that could and should be taken in support of a world without nuclear weapons; and consider additional measures, including those that would enhance confidence through increased transparency and the development of effective and efficient verification capabilities related to nuclear disarmament.

9. Throughout its 2014 session, the Conference on Disarmament was unable to commence negotiations or substantive deliberations on the basis of an agreed programme of work. In March 2014, the Conference did approve a mandate for the re-establishment of the informal working group on a programme of work, although that body has been unable to find a way to break the impasse as of the date of this report.

10. In light of the continued paralysis in the Conference on Disarmament, the Group of Governmental Experts to develop recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to, but not negotiate, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices held its first session from 31 March to 11 April 2014 in Geneva, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The second session of the Group is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 11 to 22 August 2014.

Failing the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, the group will hold up to two more sessions of two weeks each in 2015.

11. The Disarmament Commission held its substantive session from 7 to 25 April 2014 in New York, ending its three-year cycle without achieving consensus on matters of substance. The session was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations. The Working Group on agenda item 4 ("Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons") had conducted its work on the basis of several working papers, including a working paper submitted by its Chair, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Canada, on "General guiding elements for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation" (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.3/Rev.1).

12. The international community made some progress towards the consolidation and further establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones:

(a) On 6 May 2014, at a ceremony on the margins of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the nuclear-weapon States, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, signed the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. The Protocol provides a legally binding assurance by the nuclear-weapon States that they will respect the application of the Treaty in Central Asia and neither use, nor threaten to use, nuclear weapons against the parties to the Treaty. The signing of the Protocol marked an important milestone towards the consolidation of the zone;

(b) As discussed further in the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/27, the facilitator and conveners for the postponed conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction intensified their efforts aimed at bringing the States of the region together to discuss and reach agreement on the arrangements for the conference, including its agenda, modalities and rules of procedure;

(c) The third preparatory meeting for the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia was held on 7 May 2014 in New York. The Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations chaired the meeting. States used the opportunity to assess the current status of treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones and to discuss possible elements for the outcome document of the third Conference, which will be held in 2015 in New York.

13. The nuclear-weapon States continued their efforts related to the implementation of commitments on nuclear disarmament, principally through efforts aimed at promoting greater transparency through multilateral and unilateral means and implementing their treaty obligations:

(a) The nuclear-weapon States held their fifth conference on 14 and 15 April 2014 in Beijing. The meeting built upon their previous conferences in 2009 in London, 2011 in Paris, 2012 in Washington, D.C., and 2013 in Geneva. The nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their commitment to the shared goal of nuclear disarmament and to general and complete disarmament, as provided for in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They emphasized the importance of the joint efforts in implementing the actions agreed to at the 2010

Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. The nuclear-weapon States also reviewed their work on specific joint initiatives, such as a glossary of key nuclear terms and a common reporting framework;

(b) The Russian Federation and the United States continued to work towards the full implementation of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. As of 1 March 2014, according to the data provided by the parties on their aggregate holdings of strategic offensive arms, the Russian Federation possessed 498 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,512 warheads on those systems; the United States possessed 778 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,585 warheads on those systems. At the session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission held in February 2014 in Geneva, the parties reached agreement on additional procedures for inspecting deployed United States Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missiles and on the telemetric information on intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missile launches to be exchanged in 2014;

(c) In April 2014, the United States released newly declassified data, updating annual figures for the first time since 2010 on the total size of its nuclear weapons stockpiles, which consisted of 4,804 warheads as of September 2013. The data also provided updated figures indicating that since 30 September 2009, the United States had dismantled 1,204 nuclear warheads, with several thousand additional nuclear warheads that were retired and awaiting dismantlement. France and the United Kingdom had previously released information indicating the upper limit of the number of nuclear warheads in their respective stockpiles.

14. Other States also continued to undertake or initiate new efforts aimed in various ways at facilitating the nuclear disarmament process:

(a) The members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), joined by two new members, continued their engagement at the ministerial level.[1] On 26 September 2013, in New York, the members of the Initiative issued their seventh ministerial statement, delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. In their statement, the members of the Initiative, inter alia, urged all nuclear-weapon States and those States outside the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to take steps towards the speedy, final and total elimination of their nuclear weapons, including through greater transparency and diminishing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in military doctrine and concepts, and reducing the operational readiness of nuclear weapon systems. On 12 April 2014, the foreign ministers of the member States of the Initiative met in Hiroshima, Japan, where they heard testimonies by survivors of the atomic bomb (Hibakusha) and, in their eighth ministerial statement, invited the world's political leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to witness first-hand the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the atomic bombings. The Ministers stated that ongoing discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be

[1] Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and new members, Nigeria and the Philippines.

inclusive and universal and a catalyst for united global action towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons;

(b) On 24 April 2014, the Marshall Islands simultaneously filed applications with the International Court of Justice against nine States (China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States), accusing them of not fulfilling their obligations with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament. In its applications, the Marshall Islands requested the Court to order the respondents to take all necessary steps to comply with their respective obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and under customary international law within one year of its judgment, including the initiation of negotiations on a convention on nuclear disarmament.

15. Despite some progress in implementing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, Member States and civil society have expressed growing frustration with the slow pace of progress. While the nuclear-armed States with the largest nuclear arsenals have continued to make progress in reducing their deployment of strategic nuclear weapons, the total estimated number of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, still amounts to several thousand. Moreover, a number of States continue to rely on nuclear weapons in their defence and security policies and many of those States have continued to pursue programmes intended to modernize their nuclear weapons, delivery systems and related infrastructure. Some nuclear-armed States have also continued to quantitatively expand their nuclear arsenals. In light of the persistent stalemate that has continued to plague the United Nations disarmament machinery, the demonstrable lack of progress towards the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons has led to a continuing search for new means to carry forward the work of achieving the common goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

16. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs have continued their efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Secretary-General called for the nuclear-weapon States to intensify their efforts at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. In January 2014, the Secretary-General spoke at the Conference on Disarmament for the fourth time and urged that body to live up to the expectations of the international community, lest it be overtaken by events. At the Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague in March 2014, the Secretary-General warned that nuclear security would be jeopardized by the very existence of such weapons and by the vast amounts of weapons-usable nuclear material in stockpiles outside any international regulatory controls. Reflecting the changing discourse on nuclear weapons in recent years, the Secretary-General stated that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons required that nuclear disarmament be treated as a top priority.

III. Information received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[14 April 2014]

The views of Cuba are submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 68/42, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons".

On 8 July 1996, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. Almost 20 years have passed since the Court declared the use of nuclear weapons illegal. However, very little progress has been made towards achieving the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The human race and our entire ecosystem remain at risk of disappearing, given the existence and potential use of 17,270 ever more powerful nuclear weapons. As long as nuclear weapons exist there is a danger that they might be used. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

It is disturbing that the use of this kind of weapon remains a fundamental part of the military and defence doctrines of certain nuclear powers and that their use might be considered even against non-nuclear-weapon States in response to attacks using non-nuclear weapons.

In accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon States have a legal obligation not only to pursue, but also to bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament under a strict and effective international verification system. However, some nuclear powers limit the nuclear problem to the issue of horizontal non-proliferation, while proceeding with the modernization of their nuclear arsenals.

Cuba is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to the international treaties on chemical and biological weapons. In the General Assembly, it supports resolutions that advocate the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It is also a party to other regional multilateral mechanisms dealing with nuclear disarmament; for example, it is a party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Latin America was the first region to declare itself a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Recently, at the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana in January 2014, the region was formally declared a zone of peace, marking an unprecedented and historic milestone and a substantive step on the long road towards general and complete disarmament.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, of which Cuba is honoured to be a member, has reaffirmed on several occasions the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith, and bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

As a member of the Conference on Disarmament, Cuba is in favour of giving priority to commencing negotiations on a phased programme for nuclear disarmament, culminating in the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. In the same vein, our country regards the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, as an important concrete step towards the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[9 April 2014]

As the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador said in his statement at the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, foreign policy regarding nuclear weapons is based on the constitution, in which Ecuador condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction because it believes them to be a threat to the survival of humankind.

In accordance with that principle, Ecuador has ratified all pertinent international instruments, notably the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and additional protocols on safeguards and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Ecuador endorsed the declaration on nuclear disarmament adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in Buenos Aires in August 2013, which reiterated that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and of the Charter of the United Nations. It also endorsed the special declaration on nuclear disarmament adopted at the second summit of the Community, held in Havana in January 2014, which stressed that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity, constituting at the same time a violation of international law and international humanitarian law, as determined in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

In addition, as a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Ecuador endorsed the statement made on the occasion of the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Mexico in February 2014, which recalled the opinion of the Court and reaffirmed the need for States to comply at all times with international law, including international humanitarian law.

The foregoing clearly demonstrates the political will of Ecuador to recognize and be bound by the opinion of the International Court of Justice in matters of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Georgia accords special attention to the problems of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of disarmament, as the most important means for guaranteeing international stability and combating the most dangerous threat to

modern society — terrorism. Furthermore, Georgia calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, as reaffirmed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

According to Georgian legislation, the issues referred to in resolution 68/42 are regulated by the law entitled "On the control of export-import of armaments, military equipment and goods of dual-purpose use". Pursuant to international and Georgian national security interests and the enforcement of regimes on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the law defines the fundamentals and rules of control on armaments, military equipment, raw materials, tools, technologies, scientific and technical information and the import and export of services connected to their production and use.

The Inter-Agency Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law was established pursuant to decree No. 408 of the Government of Georgia. The Commission has elaborated a draft national action plan for 2014-2015 on the implementation of international humanitarian law. One of the aims of the action plan is to fulfil the international obligations on arms control and disarmament undertaken by Georgia. The main governmental bodies for the implementation of the above-mentioned requirements are the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Service), the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection and the National Security Council of Georgia.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2014]

Iraq concurs with the rest of the world that the use of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law and calls upon all States, particularly nuclear-weapon States, to fulfil their obligations pursuant to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice by immediately commencing multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention on the elimination of nuclear weapons and prohibiting their production, possession or use.

Iraq believes that the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice is part of the body of international legislation concerning the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons and that the legal obligation of States, according to the opinion of the Court, is not merely to engage in negotiations, but to conclude them, with the aim of ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

Under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon States have the obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith to achieve general and complete nuclear disarmament at an early date. Iraq supports the formation of an ad hoc committee of the Conference on Disarmament, with a specific mandate to negotiate a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and stresses the need for such a committee.

Nuclear disarmament is a constant feature and a priority of Iraqi foreign policy, in line with the 2005 permanent constitution of the Republic of Iraq; the

special role assigned to that question in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978; and the conclusions of the International Court of Justice in its 1996 advisory opinion. The devastating nature of such weapons makes their total elimination a necessity if humanity is to survive and life is to continue on Earth. The continued existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to international peace and security.

The Government of Iraq attaches great importance to the issue of general disarmament. Iraq has acceded to all the principal disarmament treaties and affirms its full commitment to the implementation of all their provisions and requirements, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which it ratified in 1969, and the implementation of the model additional protocol to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iraq has also acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

The adherence of the Government of Iraq to conventions and treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation stems from its belief that universal accession to international conventions on weapons of mass destruction can provide the international community with a real guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons, in addition to achieving international peace and security.

Iraq endorses the opinion of the International Court of Justice and calls upon all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, to abide by it. Iraq has taken every opportunity to endorse the advisory opinion in the official statements and working papers it has presented at all international forums.

During the Iraqi presidency of the Conference on Disarmament in June 2013, the Conference managed to break its 16-year deadlock and succeeded in establishing an informal working group to determine a programme of work for the Conference (decision contained in document CD/1956/Rev.1, adopted on 16 August 2013).

The Government of Iraq stresses the need for a binding international instrument to provide guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States that nuclear-weapon States will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

The Government of Iraq concurs with the international community that nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest and most serious threats to international peace and security. Heightened security measures are vital to preventing terrorists and other unauthorized actors from acquiring nuclear and radioactive materials. We also reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Iraq to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which affirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitute a threat to international peace and security. We call for that resolution to be fully implemented.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[9 April 2014]

Lebanon wishes to reiterate that:

- It does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction. It complies with the United Nations resolutions in that regard and is opposed to the legality of the threat or use of such weapons.
- It welcomes and supports all initiatives aimed at bringing about general and complete disarmament, especially in the Middle East, and emphasizes that the region should be free of weapons of mass destruction. It is, however, concerned at the failure of Israel to comply with international law. Israel maintains a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a constant threat to all the States of the region and consequently to international peace and security.
- It is essential for the Arab States to continue to call for the establishment of a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, because that is the only available option for coping with the dangers which the nuclear armaments of Israel and its other weapons of mass destruction represent for international peace and Arab national security.
- The international community should continue to demand that all States in the region, including Israel, should sign treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons.
- It is essential to unify the Arab position, step up the role of the League of Arab States and take action to acquire the scientific knowledge and secure the equipment required to protect against weapons of mass destruction. It is also vital to continue the efforts to emphasize that Israel is a State which is not a party to the international conventions.
- It calls for the introduction and development of the use of peaceful nuclear technologies in all fields that serve sustainable development and that the various needs of the Arab States be taken into account.

Libya

[Original: Arabic]
[15 April 2014]

Libya believes that responsibility for taking measures to implement the resolution lies with the nuclear-weapon States, which must take practical steps in that regard and provide assurances to the international community, particularly non-nuclear-weapon States.

Non-nuclear-weapon States must press for the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament to issue a legally binding United Nations instrument prohibiting the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

Libya supports all efforts towards nuclear disarmament, particularly those of the United Nations. It supports the five-point proposal of the Secretary-General, including the holding of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement

on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification.

Libya decided in 2003 to abandon its military nuclear programme, thereby strengthening the principle of nuclear non-proliferation and reducing the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Libya believes that the definitive and fundamental solution to the threat posed by nuclear weapons is for the nuclear-weapon States promptly to cease the production, development, testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and immediately begin serious and credible negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a verifiable time frame under strict and effective international control.

All relevant international forums must continue to urge all States to eliminate nuclear weapons and the threat that they pose. They must work to adopt an international instrument prohibiting the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[19 May 2014]

In United Nations forums, Mexico has been a regular, active and committed advocate of disarmament and the achievement of international peace and security and has stressed the urgent need to ban and totally eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding instrument under strict and effective international control.

In this regard, Mexico has spearheaded various actions, in its national capacity and in conjunction with other like-minded countries, to move nuclear disarmament forward:

(a) Each year, Mexico co-sponsors the resolution entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons", submitted by Malaysia;

(b) Mexico submitted the draft resolution, adopted as resolution 68/26, entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)";

(c) Together with the group of co-sponsors of resolution 67/56, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", Mexico submitted a new draft resolution under the same agenda item, adopted as resolution 68/46, in order to follow up on the work of the Open-ended Working Group;

(d) Each year, together with Australia and New Zealand, Mexico submits a resolution to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Mexico also maintains that concerns about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons should be the basis for actions in the area of disarmament. Mexico has been a party to the collective statements made on that subject since 2012 and in 2014 it hosted the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Nayarit.

The vision of the Chair (Mexico) of the conference is reflected in the Chair's summary, which drew attention to the fact that weapons had been eliminated after being outlawed, which is consistent with the obligations derived from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Geneva Conventions. The summary concludes that "discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should lead to the commitment of States and civil society to reach new international standards and norms, through a legally binding instrument", and that "the time has come to initiate a diplomatic process conducive to this goal. ... this process should comprise a specific timeframe, the definition of the most appropriate fora, and a clear and substantive framework ...".

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[30 May 2014]

In the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/42, Ukraine has consistently demonstrated its readiness to participate actively in a multilateral negotiation process aimed at the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination.

In 1994, Ukraine became a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on certain conditions. Those conditions included security assurances given to Ukraine by the five nuclear-weapon States in exchange for its accession to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State. In the 20 years since signing the Treaty, Ukraine has faithfully fulfilled all the provisions of the Treaty and has also met additional obligations as part of the nuclear summit process, including by renouncing the use of highly enriched uranium.

Despite the criminal violation by the Russian Federation of its commitments to Ukraine under the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum), Ukraine has remained consistent in respecting its international obligations. Moreover, in a joint statement by Ukraine and the United States of America, issued at the Hague nuclear summit in March 2014, Ukraine reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, firmly establishing its leadership in matters of nuclear security and non-proliferation.

In addition to participating in negotiations on nuclear disarmament in various international forums, Ukraine takes part in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts established by General Assembly resolution 67/53 to make recommendations on possible aspects of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.